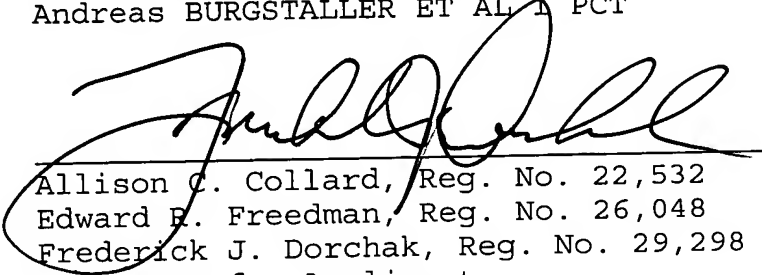


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Preliminary Amendment, an Abstract of the Disclosure on its own separate page has been added. In addition, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to related applications has been inserted on page 1. The claims have been amended in order to remove the multiple dependency. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Maria Guastella

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a method for setting a parameter for external control units (30) of a welding device (1), whereby the welding parameters can be selected and set using different control elements (27) and indicating elements (28) on the welding device (1). The aim of the invention is to provide a method of this type with which a flexible adaptation of setting options of external components (29) connected to the welding device (1) is made possible for the most varied applications or welding processes. To this end, a control program (32) is activated in the welding device (1), whereby the selected welding parameter for setting or adjusting is selectively assigned to an external control unit (30) located on an external component (29) so that this welding parameter is set or changed when the external control units (30) on the external components (29) are activated or adjusted.